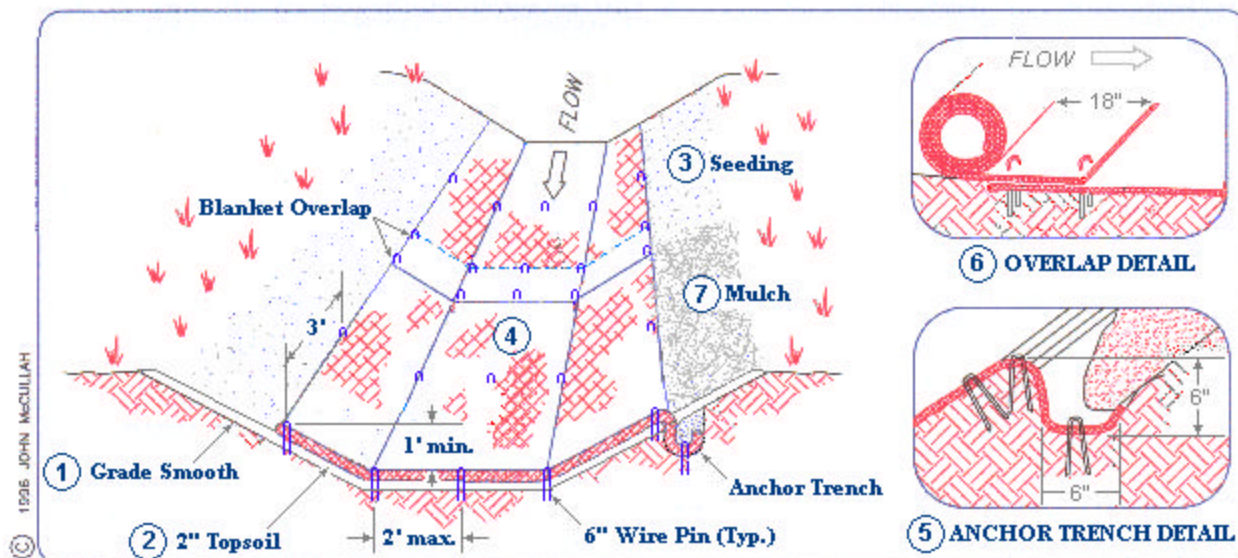


## VEGETATED DITCHES



This sketch shows the general requirements for stabilizing a ditch with vegetation. The ditch must have a grade less than 6%, side slopes no steeper than 1V:2H, and a contributing drainage area less than five acres. While the sketch shows a trapezoidal ditch, the ditch may also be parabolic or V-shaped.

### INSTALLATION

Install the permanent ditch lining within 24 hours of completing the final grading for each section of ditch. Start the installation at the lowest point and work your way upstream. Installation of vegetated linings must be done during the growing season prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>. Installations done after this date will likely fail to prevent erosion within the ditch the following spring.

1. Grade the ditch line to a smooth, even surface. Remove any protruding rocks, stumps, and roots.
2. If needed, spread two inches of topsoil over the ditch surface and till the topsoil into the underlying soil.
3. Broadcast the seed over the entire ditch surface and rake it into the soil. See the VEGETATION measure for information on the permanent seeding of disturbed soils.
4. Install the erosion control blanket using the manufacturer's guidelines. If these are not known, then use the pin spacing and overlap method shown in the above sketch. Pins along the ditch's length should be no more than three feet apart. Pins across the ditch's width should be no more than two feet apart. Install pins working from the center of the blanket out. It is critical that the blanket has firm, continuous contact with the underlying soil. If needed, use additional pins than shown.
5. Anchor the sides of the blanket in a trench if the underlying soil is loose sands or silts. Pin the blanket in the trench as shown in the detail and firmly pack soil in the trench so to cover the blanket edge.
6. Overlap the ends of blankets at least 18 inches. The upstream blanket must lap over the downstream blanket. Pin the ends of both blankets along the overlap.
7. Mulch the upper portions of the ditch's side slopes using hay or straw. See the MULCHING measure for mulching rates and methods.

### MAINTENANCE

- ◆ The first year after installation, inspect the ditch lining monthly for slumping of the lining, downcutting of the ditch's base, or undercutting of the banks. Fix these problems as soon as possible. After the first year, inspect the ditch yearly.
- ◆ Mow or brush-cut the ditch yearly to prevent the establishment of woody vegetation within the channel.
- ◆ Each spring remove any accumulation of winter sand that would impede pavement runoff from entering the ditch.

See *Maine Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs* (3/2003) Section E-4 for more information on stabilizing ditches with vegetation.